

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A press for flattening dough pieces is provided having a floor supported frame, an endless conveyor belt movably carried on the frame and presenting an upper horizontal surface, and at least one movable platen carried on the frame for pressing the dough pieces against the belt. In an embodiment, a sub frame is adjustably supported by the frame to permit leveling and adjustment of said sub frame relative to the frame. Attachment mechanisms are provided for securing the sub frame to the main frame following adjustment between the two. In an embodiment, at least two movable platens are carried on at least one of said frames, both of the platens being movable in a longitudinal horizontal direction and at least one of the platens is movable in a vertical direction. A linear actuator is drivingly connected to the two movable platens. In an embodiment, a loading system for loading dough balls onto the belt is provided. The loading system includes a transport mechanism to receive dough balls in a sequential stream and to deliver the dough balls to the belt at a speed equal to a speed of the belt. In an embodiment, a belt splicing hot press is carried on the frame operatively engageable with the belt to splice together severed ends of the belt to form a continuous endless belt.

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